

(This document comprises news clips from various media in which Balmer Lawrie is mentioned, news related to GOI and PSEs, and news from the verticals that we do business in. This will be e-mailed on every Monday.)

Balmer Lawrie in news

Leather Chemicals Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends Analysis to 2020

Leather chemicals are a class of products that are used in the treatment of animal hides for the production of leather. Leather chemicals are required at different stages of leather processing which includes beamhouse, tanning and finishing, fat liquors and water repellents and drum dyeing. Leather is an unmatched material for making accessory products and item. In order to make the leather for long lasting for use and to create an appealing richness of leather, many leather chemicals are used. Increasing demand for various leather made products such as apparels, footwear, garments, furniture and automotive upholstery positively influence the demand of leather chemicals and helps in further growth of leather chemical market. Innovation in technology such as use of micro and nano particulates for abrasion resistance and improved innovation in chemical compound that offers improved color, look and feel better leather, superior water resistance and improved finish adhesion are expected to drive the leather chemical market across the globe.

Industry Today - 20.08.2015

<http://www.industrytoday.co.uk/chemicals/leather-chemicals-market---global-industry-size-share-trends-analysis-to-2020/38124>

India must open up its economy, with riders: Jaitley

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday asserted that India must completely open up its economy to global investment, except for rare sectors. "... (from) directions which we have seen in the last 15 months, I think one of the first principles was except for rare sectors, India must accept that it has to completely open up. "And therefore, sector after sector which remained closed, we have to offer ourselves as a recipient of global investment, and that is the direction in which the present policy regime of the government has moved," he said at the SBI Banking and Economics Conclave. Jaitley said growing at 8-10% for a significant number of years will help India find an answer to poverty. "It's only then we will be able to create jobs. It's only then we will be elevated to a category of society which is able to realise its entire full potential," he said.

The Hindustan Times - 18.08.2015

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/india-must-open-up-its-economy-with-riders-jaitley/article1-1381604.aspx>

As Rupee Sinks to 66.71, Rajan Says India Better Placed Than Others

As the rupee slumped to 66.71 per dollar on Monday, its lowest since September 2013,

Indian economy can double in three years: Suresh Prabhu

The Indian economy can double in three years and has the potential of becoming a \$20-trillion economy, railways minister Suresh Prabhu said on Friday. Prabhu also stressed the need for clarity in thought and a comprehensive plan to make a \$20-trillion Indian economy. "Inflation is down, the economy is looking up, and foreign direct investments have been increasing. There is a tremendous respect among investors for the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and are eager to invest in India," he said while addressing the 40th regional conference of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India here. "In this context, we can double the economy in the next three or three-and-a-half years," said Prabhu. Prabhu asserted that only economic growth was not the agenda; rather the removal of poverty and corruption was also essential.

The Times of India - 21.08.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Indian-economy-can-double-in-three-years-Suresh-Prabhu/articleshow/48580071.cms>

Moody's cuts India's 2015 growth forecast to 7% on deficient monsoon

India's economy might grow by just seven per cent in 2015-16, lower than 7.3 per cent

Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan said the central bank will not have any "hesitation" in using foreign exchange reserves to reduce currency volatility. Dr Rajan noted that India was in a better position relative to other countries. He also said India's macro-economic problems were "under control" although he added that the country would need to focus on increasing domestic production as an effective way to protect itself against a global economic slowdown. "Many of you are watching markets this morning worried about the continued volatility from last week. While I don't want to opine on the future direction of markets, I will say that relative to other countries India is in a good position with strengthening growth, a low current account deficit and narrowing fiscal deficit, moderating inflation, low short term foreign currency liabilities and very size-able exchange reserves relative to imports and liabilities," Dr Rajan said.

NDTV Profit - 24.08.2015

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/forex/article-rupee-hits-2-year-low-of-66-49-dollar-on-rising-fears-of-currency-war-1210274>

Twin FM recipe for 8% growth

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley today expressed confidence of achieving an 8-10 per cent growth rate on increased investment and appropriate mix of policies. "I do believe it is (8 per cent and above growth) achievable... if we take the right steps in the right direction and don't have too many adverse global trends," Jaitley said at an interactive session of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) here today. The finance minister was responding to queries from Shaswat Goenka, vice-president the Indian Chamber, and other members on the reform measures planned by the Centre. Jaitley's confidence comes amidst global rating agencies forecasting lower growth rate for India. Moody's Investors Service has cut its forecast for India's growth to around 7 per cent this year from 7.5 per cent because of lower-than-expected rainfall in the ongoing monsoon season. Even the RBI has lowered its growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.6 per cent from 7.8 per cent projected in April.

The Telegraph - 24.08.2015

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150824/jsp/business/story_38730.jsp#.VdrTkSWqqko

Global gloom mars local mood

Fears over the Chinese economy and the turmoil in Greece pulled down equities and the rupee, with the BSE Sensex today ending at its lowest close in over two months and the domestic currency plunging 29 paise to 65.83 to a dollar. The

recorded in the previous financial year and way below the government's projections of 8.1-8.5 per cent, if rating agency Moody's Investors Service new projections prove true. The rating agency on Tuesday cut its forecast for India's economic growth to seven per cent for 2014-15 from the earlier 7.5 per cent, blaming it on weak monsoon. Even the revised growth forecast has a downside risk of slow pace of economic reforms. The rating agency, however, maintained its growth projections of 7.5 per cent for the next financial year. "We have revised our growth domestic product (GDP) growth forecast down to around seven per cent, in light of a drier than average monsoon although rainfall was not as low as feared at the start of the season," the rating agency said in its Global Macro Outlook. Moody's is the first agency to come out with such low growth numbers for India's economy.

Business Standard - 19.08.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/reuters/moody-s-cuts-india-s-2015-growth-forecast-to-around-7-pct-115081800140_1.html

June quarter corporate results: a bit of growth goes a long way

The June quarter corporate results for Indian companies were not expected to be anything to write home about. Nor have they been. The only consolation is there has been some improvement from the March quarter, mirroring the sighting of green shoots in the economy. For instance, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) database, the June quarter results of 3,160 non-financial companies show an increase of 5.7% in operating profit and 2.8% in reported net profit when compared with a year ago. That may not seem much, but we have to consider that both operating and net profits contracted sharply in the preceding two quarters. Indeed, the contraction in net profit from the year-ago period was as much as 30% in the March 2015 quarter and 39% in the December 2014 quarter, according to the CMIE database; so there's no doubt that there has been an improvement.

Mint - 21.08.2015

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/RDaIC8E7xFzBIZL7HpgZ6O/June-quarter-corporate-results-a-bit-of-growth-goes-a-long.html>

Three Indian firms among world's most innovative companies

Three Indian companies figure in Forbes' annual list of The World's Most Innovative Companies topped by Tesla Motors, leading maker of fully electric vehicles. Ranked 41st, Hindustan

benchmark index had crashed more than 450 points during intra-day trade. It recovered from these lows to close at 27366.07, a loss of 242 points. Data from China showed its giant manufacturing sector slowing at the fastest pace since the depths of the financial crisis in 2009, confirming worries about its health that have been worrying analysts for months. Emerging market assets took another hammering and oil prices were on track for their longest losing streak since 1986, as fears of a China-led deceleration in entire global growth gripped sentiment. The turmoil in Greece with the resignation of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his call for fresh elections affected sentiment. The uncertainty over a US Fed rate hike added to the bearish mood.

The Telegraph - 22.08.2015

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150822/jsp/business/story_38482.jsp#.VdrSQyWqqko

Govt working on many fronts to push up exports: Comm Secy

The government is working on a multi-pronged strategy to enhance exports competitiveness and address infrastructural bottleneck, a top Commerce Ministry official said. Contracting for the eighth month in a row, India's exports slipped 10.3 percent in July to USD 23.13 billion, hit by global slowdown and a dip in crude oil prices, which in turn impacted the value of petroleum products. Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia said the ministry is focusing on exports sectors with a huge potential such as pharmaceuticals, ready-made garments, leather, gems and jewellery, chemicals and agro-chemicals. Trade facilitation, she felt, can play a vital role in boosting competitiveness of domestic exports. "In trade facilitation, we are dividing our approach into two pieces - short term steps which we can do quickly to make things easier for exports and long term, in which a calibrated strategy (is required)," Teotia told agency in an interview.

MoneyControl - 21.08.2015

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/govt-workingvarious-fronts-to-pushexports-comm-secy_2651041.html

Govt to release Q1 GDP data on Aug 31

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Thursday said the national accounts data for the April—June quarter of the ongoing fiscal will be released on August 31. The ministry in its statement on May 29, 2015 had said that the June quarter GDP data will be released on August 28. "The First Quarter press release of 2015—16 will be on 31st August 2015 as per the Advance Release Calendar for Quarterly Releases. In the Press Note released on May 29 2015, the date of release was inadvertently mentioned as

Unilever, India-based fast moving consumer goods company, tops the list of Indian Innovative Companies. It operates in seven business segments ranging from soaps and detergents to tea and coffee and packaged foods. It's followed by Tata Consultancy Services in the 64th spot. India's largest IT company appears on the list for the eighth time. It took a major step toward bolstering its digital services with a training programme in digital technologies for a third of its workforce. Ranked 71st, Sun Pharma Industries, India's largest drugs company, with 45 manufacturing sites across the globe, appears on the list for the fourth straight time.

The Times of India - 20.08.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Three-Indian-firms-among-worlds-most-innovative-companies/articleshow/48552724.cms>

Centre ready with sops for exporters

The government plans to announce export incentives, such as an interest subsidy scheme, to boost shipments amid weak global demand. The government hopes that interest subvention and the inclusion of more sectors and countries under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) will provide some cushion to exporters hit by the devaluation of the yuan. Senior commerce ministry officials said the government could expand the scope of the interest subsidy scheme to more sectors such as chemicals, pharma, engineering, electronics and textiles. Engineering exports have taken a hit, with shipments of non-ferrous metals to China dropping 36 per cent in June 2015, according to an analysis by the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India. Exports dipped for the eighth straight month by 10.3 per cent in July to \$23.13 billion on account of continued weak global demand, while a China-led currency war overvalued the rupee and eroded local competitiveness.

The Telegraph - 24.08.2015

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150824/jsp/business/story_38727.jsp#.VdrUHCWqqko

Disinvestment Kitty: Government Eyes Best 'First Half' in 7 Years

Looking to garner Rs 9,300 crore from Indian Oil share sale on Monday, the government expects its disinvestment kitty so far this fiscal to swell to Rs 12,600 crore -- making it the best 'first-half' in 7 years. So far, the government has sold minority stake in three PSUs -- PFC, REC and Dredging Corp -- to raise over Rs 3,300 crore so far this fiscal. It has scheduled a 10 per cent stake sale in Indian Oil Corp on Monday. "We

28th August 2015," the ministry said in a notice uploaded on its website. According to the advance calendar for release of different economic data by the ministry, the first quarter GDP data is due for release on August 31.

The Hindu Business Line - 21.08.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/govt-to-release-q1-gdp-data-on-aug-31/article7561866.ece>

FM lists operational hurdles of PSUs

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that public sector units face a lot of restrictions as compared with their private sector peers. "Normally it is said that state institutions find it very difficult to compete with private institutions and the reason is that state institutions normally have a more bureaucratic manner of decision-making," Jaitley said. Public sector companies cannot go and recruit from university campuses like private institutions. They ought to have a particular mechanism which follows the tests laid down by various judicial pronouncements. Erroneous decisions of state sector bankers can have penal consequences. Private sector institutions can operate free from those fears. Besides, state-owned institutions have a more defensive style of functioning, Jaitley added. Lauding the adoption of technology by consumers when it comes to banking, Jaitley said a lot of things which used to be done by consumers will become history soon. Technology is very good, it is also going to change the habit of a large number of our consumers and users.

Deccan Herald - 19.08.2015

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/495939/fm-lists-operational-hurdles-psus.html>

Seventh Pay Commission seeks one-month extension from finance ministry

The Seventh Pay Commission, headed by justice A.K. Mathur, has sought a one-month extension from the finance ministry and is preparing to submit its report by the end of September. The commission is unlikely to recommend the lowering of the retirement age as rumoured earlier or push for lateral entry and performance-based pay. The commission, set up once in every 10 years to review pay, allowances and other benefits for central government employees, was appointed by the previous government on 28 February 2014 and was asked to submit its report in 18 months, which falls on 31 August. "There are some data points that are missing, which we hope to get by this month end. We are trying to submit the report

have already completed three issues and on Monday we will have the fourth one. Although we are more than a month to go from the first half to end, this will be the best ever first half in past seven fiscals," Disinvestment Secretary Aradhana Johri said.

The New Indian Express - 23.08.2015

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/news/Disinvestment-Kitty-Government-Eyes-Best-First-Half-in-7-Years/2015/08/23/article2989401.ece>

In efficiency push, CBEC to put senior officers' performance under the lens

Nudged by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has decided to review the performance of each Group 'A' officer aged 50 years or above. Based on the review, a decision could be taken on his/her pre-mature retirement. "Probably for the first time in recent years, the provision in service rules related with a kind of compulsory retirement is being invoked. This is after many instances of corruption and alleged inefficiencies," a senior government official told BusinessLine, adding that the intention is to make the system much more efficient. Under the Fundamental Rules (FR) and Central Civil Services or CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, there is a provision to ascertain whether the government servant should be retained in service or be prematurely retired in public interest. The CBEC is an indirect tax body responsible for policy formulation and collection of customs, Central excise duties and service tax.

The Hindu Business Line - 18.08.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/in-efficiency-push-cbec-to-put-senior-officers-performance-under-the-lens/article7550892.ece>

US oil falls longest in 29 years after China data

US oil prices headed for their eighth consecutive week of falls on Friday, the longest losing streak since 1986, after a sharp drop in Chinese manufacturing increased worries over the health of the world's biggest energy consumer. Activity in China's factory sector shrank at its fastest pace in almost 6-1/2 years in August as domestic and export demand dwindled, adding to worries about lower consumption of crude in the second-biggest oil user. Asian stocks followed Wall Street lower as fears took hold of a China-led slowdown in global growth. Both global oil benchmarks are near 6-1/2-year lows, with US crude heading for its longest weekly losing streak in 29 years. In late 1985, oil prices

by 20 September," an official of the commission said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Sixth Pay Commission had submitted its report a little ahead of its deadline on 24 March 2008. The revised pay scales were implemented retrospectively starting 1 January 2006, while recommendations relating to allowances were implemented prospectively.

Mint - 18.08.2015

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/VV8dyWuJuevhKB3njIABfM/Seventh-Pay-Commission-seeks-onemonth-extension-from-financ.html>

Oil slide persists, Indian basket nears \$46 level

The Indian basket of crude oil fell below the \$47 a barrel mark as prices continued to plummet in the global markets, with some key benchmarks like Western Texas Intermediate and Brent logging the longest weekly loss since 1986. The Indian basket, comprising 73 percent sour-grade Dubai and Oman crude, and the balance in sweet-grade Brent, fell to \$46.36 on Thursday -- the lowest since \$43.36 in January -- and the latest drop in the global markets is set to lower it even further. The basket of 12 crude oils of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) closed at \$44.13 a barrel on Thursday, compared to \$45.39 on Wednesday. US oil prices went towards their eighth consecutive week of falls on Friday, the longest downwards streak since 1986, after a sharp drop in Chinese manufacturing fuelled market concern. Oil prices dived as a US government report showed that the crude stockpiles of last week increased unexpectedly. US crude for October delivery traded early on Friday at \$41.02 a barrel, while Brent oil was down 40 cents over Thursday at \$46.22 a barrel.

Business Standard - 21.08.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/oil-slide-persists-indian-basket-nears-46-level-115082101284_1.html

Benefits of lower crude oil prices

The cycle is down in energy fossil fuels such as crude, natural gas and coal. The prices of these started moving down about a year ago. The downtrends have now intensified. The primary cause is low global demand. Projections for global GDP (gross domestic product) growth have reduced, as the slowdown in China gets more obvious. The US is about the only major economy doing okay at the moment. Japan is near stagnation and euro zone is struggling. Large emerging market (EM) economies like Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa and Russia are

slumped to \$10 from around \$30 over five months as Opec raised output to regain market share following an increase in non-Opec production. US crude for October delivery was 30 cents lower at \$41.02 a barrel by 0810 GMT. On Thursday, the September US crude contract saw its lowest intraday trade since March 2009 at \$40.21 a barrel before it expired at the market close.

Mint - 21.08.2015

<http://www.livemint.com/Money/lbVeaZiIq5IbETX0gCullM/Oil-poised-for-longest-weekly-losing-streak-since-1986-amid.html>

Oil marketing companies eye higher savings by raising exposure to spot crude

The three state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs)—Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd (HPCL)—are looking at additional savings, to offset lower refining margins, by increasing spot crude purchases in the current year. This will help them take advantage of the current slide in the price of crude oil, which has plunged below \$50 per barrel. The firms can expect to save close to Rs.2,000-3,000 crore or more this year if the price keeps falling. This will directly reflect in their profits, analysts said. Last financial year, except for IOCL, OMCs did not increase their spot crude oil exposure significantly. While IOCL did not share a percentage of spot crude purchase, the other two were at a little less than 20%. "As compared with last year, we have increased our spot crude purchases by more than 10% in the current year, and currently our total crude oil portfolio has close to 30% spot crude," said P. Balasubramanian, director, finance, BPCL.

Mint - 21.08.2015

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/hLsNECY2j38w6Qkt9vUGKL/Oil-marketing-companies-eye-higher-savings-by-raising-exposu.html>

Global crude oil price crash increases India's import dependence

The crash in crude oil prices is making it harder for India to cut its dependence on imports. Cheaper imports not only boost local consumption but also dissuade oil companies from investing in raising domestic production. In March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid a road map for the local industry to cut the country's import dependence by 10% in seven years from 78% at the time. In the four months since then, the import dependence has risen to nearly 80%. During April-July, India's crude oil

also in the doldrums. India is growing quicker than other EMs but it isn't large enough to make a significant difference to global growth. There is crude and gas oversupply. The North American shale revolution released new supplies of "tight" oil and gas, which could not have been exploited earlier. Opec (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is also pumping crude oil without volume reductions. Iran is now re-entering the export market, from which it was forced out by sanctions. So, the over-supply could even increase.

Business Standard - 23.08.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pf/benefits-of-lower-crude-oil-prices-115082300831_1.html

54% Indians prefer flat discounts for travel bookings: Survey

As more and more people in the country are bitten by the travel bug, a recent survey found that 54 per cent of Indian travellers prefer flat discounts when it comes to travel bookings. "About 54 per cent of Indian travellers prefer flat discounts when it comes to travel bookings," a recent survey commissioned by Sky scanner, a leading global travel search engine, revealed. The survey, done on online platform with close to 1,000 respondents across the country, studied the booking habits and preferences of Indian travellers, and found that 38 per cent seek flexibility of cancellation and rescheduling of their flights, while 37 per cent hunt for packaged deals and offers. With over 116 million Internet-enabled smart phones, more and more Indian travellers are moving away from traditional methods of booking to a more evolved eco-system where they complete their transaction after browsing through all the available deals and discounts available," Sky scanner India Senior Marketing Manager Kavitha Gnanamurthy said.

The Economic Times - 17.08.2015

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-08-17/news/65525815_1_indian-travellers-skyscanner-cent

Time to tone up tourism infrastructure, say experts

Sweden, Greece, Ireland, Switzerland and Japan are the new choice of destinations for Indian tourists, who prefer to visit places that have a true sense of history and authenticity. To get more Indians to visit their homeland, however, experts have said there is an urgent need to continue the focus on domestic tourism and upgrade world heritage sites. The thrust for exploration to foreign

production marginally dipped to 12.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) from 12.5 MMT in the corresponding period a year ago. In the same period, crude oil import jumped 6% to 66.3 MMT and petroleum products import climbed 40% to 9.2 MMT. India's self-sufficiency in petroleum products fell to 20.1% from 21.3%. Lower prices have encouraged higher consumption of petroleum products, with increased sales seen in petrol, diesel and cooking gas. Consumption of petroleum products rose 6% in April-July.

The Economic Times - 24.08.2015

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/global-crude-oil-price-crash-increases-indias-import-dependence/articleshow/48646564.cms>

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The Hindu Business Line - 23.08.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/time-to-tone-up-tourism-infrastructure-say-experts/article7572025.ece>

Rupee slump spells boon for domestic tourism industry

Depreciation in Indian rupee against the US dollar may have made imports costlier but it seems to be working in favour of India's tourism industry. Tour operators say the fall in rupee has made foreign tour packages, air fares and hotel rates more expensive, resulting in decline in Indian tourists' outflow to foreign land. This is resulting in an increase in foreign tourist inflow

places needs to be duplicated in India, says Sharad Dhall, President at Yatra.com, a travel portal. "Abroad, they make it very easy to reach these places. The underlying infrastructure in many of these countries caters to tourism. We need to take a step in that direction. We need to better our infrastructure here so as to ensure that not just foreigners, even more Indians would want to explore the hidden India," he said. Gour Kanjilal, Executive Director, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), said it was time the Indian tourism industry was conferred with an infrastructure status.

The Hindu Business Line - 23.08.2015

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/time-to-tone-up-tourism-infrastructure-say-experts/article7572025.ece>

Cheap oil is finally having an impact on expensive air travel

A nearly year-long plunge in oil prices is finally making air travel cheaper, but you may not notice unless you fly a low-cost carrier. Numbers released by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics this week showed that average airline ticket prices dropped by 5.6% last month, the largest single-month decline in almost two decades. This is due in large part to falling oil prices, which hit multi-year lows on Friday. Jet fuel, the airlines' biggest overhead expense, has also tumbled. Obviously, falling oil is good news for airlines that now have extra cash on hand. What they choose to do with the influx of capital, however, doesn't always mean savings for the consumer. Instead of passing on savings, the big carriers posted huge profits in the first and second quarters of this year. United Airlines' \$1.2 billion profit in the second quarter of 2015 was the highest in company history.

Business Insider - 22.08.2015

<http://www.businessinsider.in/Cheap-oil-is-finally-having-an-impact-on-expensive-air-travel/articleshow/48600667.cms>

Logistics key to growth: Sitharaman

Stating that logistics is the key to growth, Union minister of state for commerce and industry, Nirmala Sitharaman said that industrial corridors such as the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) will have a great impact on the logistics sector. Participating in the launch of the Vizag Profiles Limited (VPL) integral container freight station (CFS) at Kanithi in the city on Thursday, Sitharaman said the feasibility study of the VCIC by Asian Development Bank has been accepted and work has already started on the corridor. Pointing out that the Centre is fully dedicated to

into the country. The industry expects further increase in the flow of tourists in the coming weeks to domestic destinations. Already, there is an increase in the number of queries from home tourists about home destinations — Kerala, Goa, North-East and Leh — for instance, says iTraveller CEO Shiju Radhakrishnan. All international hotels quote prices in USD, therefore, the rupee depreciation has resulted in increased hotel rates as well. Radhakrishnan says flow of queries for foreign destinations has reduced from 25% in June to 18% in August.

The Tribune - 22.08.2015

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/rupee-slump-spells-boon-for-domestic-tourism-industry/122701.html>

SpiceJet adds extra flights for winter schedule starting Oct 25

Saying that it has consistently flown the 'highest loads of all airlines' in the last few months, budget airline SpiceJet has announced the addition of new flights in its winter schedule effective from 25th October, 2015. SpiceJet says it will deploy its Boeing 737-800s for all the additional flights launched in the new winter schedule. SpiceJet has introduced daily direct flights between Goa and Ahmedabad. The airline has also increased flights between Mumbai and Ahmedabad (second flight added), Mumbai and Chennai (second flight added), Delhi and Ahmedabad (second flight added), Delhi and Chennai (third flight added), Chennai and Madurai (third flight added), Mumbai and Goa (third flight added), Kochi and Hyderabad (twice daily), Chennai and Coimbatore (twice daily). The airline has also increased flights between Delhi and Goa by adding a third flight every Saturday.

The Financial Express - 17.08.2015

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/companies/spicejet-adds-new-flights-for-its-winter-schedule-starting-oct-25/120535/>

Inland waterways policy: Dredging through the silt

The success of inland ports such as Duisburg and Nanjing, which have been competing well with sea ports, offer clear evidence of the merits of leveraging inland waterways — a far more efficient mode of transportation than either road or rail, considering that just a single mid-sized barge has the dry-cargo capacity equivalent to 50 trucks or over 10 railcars. As a consequence, transportation of cargo over inland waterways offers the advantage of both lowering carbon dioxide emissions and curbing the rate of road

the development of AP, she said an international seafood trade fair is also being planned in Vizag in the near future. Meanwhile, MP K Hari Babu said that the central government is planning to set up a campus of the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) as well as that of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in the Port City.

The Times of India - 21.08.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/Logistics-key-to-growth-Sitharaman/articleshow/48564731.cms>

Coastal shipping gets boost

Coastal shipping in India got a boost with India's largest logistics company in the private sector All Cargo Logistics acquiring two additional vessels aggregating 24000 DWT for its coastal shipping business. Their vessels are in the range of DWT 6000 MT to 12,000 MT. Today cargo tonnage carried by coastal shipping accounts for seven per cent of the approximately 48.5 million tonnes carried as on June 2015. "We foresee that with innovative solutions designed specifically as per the cargo, this number will be much higher in coming years, said Capt. Ashok Shrivastava, the chief executive officer of Allcargo Shipping. Coastal shipping will immensely benefit companies operating within India, because it is the most cost effective, time efficient and is a large capacity mode of transportation said. "It is estimated that about 2 per cent of road and about 1 per cent of rail cargo is moving annually to coastal," he said. With India's 7,000 odd kms of coastline, coastal shipping will provide new ways to design and operate logistics and supply chain function, to make it more seamless.

Asian Age - 20.08.2015

<http://www.asianage.com/business/coastal-732>

Central government's clerks to be re-designated as 'secretariat assistants'

The humble clerk, who constitutes the backbone of lower bureaucracy, is set to be re-designated as secretariat assistant, if a proposal of the department of personnel and training (DoPT) goes through. As per the new nomenclature proposed by DoPT for central secretariat clerical service (CSCS) and central secretariat service (CSS), the posts of lower division clerk and upper division clerk in the central government's employee hierarchy may soon be renamed as 'junior secretariat assistant' and 'senior secretariat assistant' respectively. It is further proposed to rename the post of Assistant in CSS as assistant section officer. All concerned have been asked to send in their inputs or suggestions on the DoPT proposal by September 18, as per the DoPT note

accidents, where India has the dubious distinction of being among the worst in the world. Despite these tangible advantages, developing the sector in India is something that has clearly eluded policymakers, who have continued their focus on the railways and roads sectors over the years.

Indian Express - 19.08.2015

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/inland-waterways-policy-dredging-through-the-silt/>

Container service to Yangon from September 4

In yet another major development to make Visakhapatnam a container hub, Herbilan Shipping Pvt. Ltd, one of the leading players in shipping, will launch a feeder service connecting Visakhapatnam Port to Yangon in Myanmar from September 4. The new service will be launched from Colombo to Yangon via Visakhapatnam and back. It will be a 14-day trip. Merchant Vessel Herbilan Success, with a capacity of 1,158 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) and a 16-member crew will pick up cargo from the city on a fixed day in a week. "This will be a milestone in transshipment of cargo to destinations like Yangon as well as Colombo," Visakhapatnam Port Chairman M.T. Krishna Babu told The Hindu. The new service comes close on the heels of introduction of Chennai-Colombo-Gulf (CCG) feeder operation by Simatech Shipping and Evergreen Line, providing direct connectivity to Sohar in Oman and Jebel Ali near Dubai. Each of them will carry 2,000 TEU.

The Hindu - 21.08.2015

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/container-service-to-yangon-from-sept-4/article7563635.ece>

Coal India to seek extension of chairman's tenure

State-owned miner Coal India on Wednesday said it will seek shareholder's approval over continuation of tenure of its present chairman Sutirtha Bhattacharya till August 31, 2017. The approval, according to the company, will be sought during its annual general meeting scheduled on September 23 here. The company's board had appointed Bhattacharya as an additional director with effect from January 5 this year which was pursuant to the Section 161 of the Companies Act, 2013. Bhattacharya, an IAS officer of the 1985 Telangana cadre division, took charge of the company after the board cleared his nomination. The company will also propose its stake-holders

circulated on Monday. The total sanctioned strength of CSS and CSCS is 11,467 and 5,933 respectively.

The Times of India - 18.08.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Central-governments-clerks-to-be-redesignated-as-secretariat-assistants/articleshow/48519563.cms>

D K Venkatesh is selected for Dir.(Engg and R&D) HAL

PESB has selected D K Venkatesh (GM, HAL) for the post of Director (Engineering and R&D), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in a selection interview held today; August 17, 2015. As many as 15 candidates had appeared for the interview. D K Venkatesh will take over as Director (Engineering R&D) after the ACC would approve his appointment subject to requisite clearances.

Indian Mandarins - 17.08.2015

<http://www.indianmandarins.com/d-k-venkatesh-is-selected-for-dir-engg-and-rd-hal/>

to upgrade portfolio of Chandan Kumar Dey from an additional director to a whole-time one.

Business Standard - 19.08.2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/coal-india-to-see-extension-of-chairman-s-tenure-115081901078_1.html

Railway man Ashwani Lohani to be Air India CMD

A railway engineer credited with restoring the world's oldest working steam locomotive for running the Fairy Queen between Delhi and Alwar now has the unenviable task of reviving Air India. The government on Thursday chose Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation chief Ashwani Lohani to be the next AI chairman and managing director.

The Times of India - 21.08.2015

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Railway-man-Ashwani-Lohani-to-be-Air-India-CMD/articleshow/48567223.cms>